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'Intelligence' Is Lacking

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SECURITY regulations within certain government agencies — notably the Central Intelligence Agency, the cloak-and-dagger department of the federal government — are sometimes carried to ridiculous extremes. Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) called attention to an example the other day.

The Idaho Senator had information which he wished to turn over to the CIA. So he wrote a letter and labeled it "Personal — For the Director." He then phoned the CIA to tell them that the letter was en route, called a page and dispatched it.

Three and one-half hours later, the page returned with the letter, unopened. The CIA security police had been questioning him all that time and finally had turned him

back without accepting delivery of the missive.

SENATOR CHURCH then decided to drop the letter in the mail for CIA Director John A. McCone, but in relating the incident he said disgustedly that "It might have been simpler to have telephoned the President."

The Senator, of course, did not divulge the nature of the information which he thought the CIA should have. But it might have been something of vital importance to the national security.

Whether Mr. McCone has ever received the letter is not known, but the Senator says he has received no such acknowledgment. In view of the frequent lapses in postal service, it may be that the CIA director is still awaiting delivery.